

Administrative Office provide the Chief Judge with advice, information, facilities, and staff to facilitate administration and implement court administrative policies established by the Chief Judge, the Court of Appeals, and the General Assembly.

The Administrative Office engages in planning and research; provides staff support for the education and training of judges and nonjudicial personnel; and prepares and administers the Judiciary budget. The Office serves as liaison with the legislative and executive branches; provides staff support for the Maryland Judicial Conference and the Conference of Circuit Judges; operates information systems; and gathers and analyzes statistics and other management information. The Office also assists the Chief Judge in the assignment of judges to cope with temporary backlogs or to address shortages of judicial personnel (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 13-101).

The staffs of the circuit administrators in the First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Judicial Circuits are also attached to the Administrative Office.

THE STATE REPORTER

Alexander L. Cummings, *State Reporter*

Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-3539

Appointed by the Court of Appeals, the State Reporter is responsible for the publication of the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports*. *Maryland Reports* contains the official opinions of the Court of Appeals (Const., Art. IV, secs. 14-18A). *Maryland Appellate Reports* contains the official opinions of the Court of Special Appeals (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13-201 through 13-204).

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-2141

In 1970, the Governor by executive order established a statewide judicial nominating commission to propose nominees for appointment to the appellate courts, and regional trial court nominating commissions to perform the same function for trial court vacancies. The commissions began operation in 1971. The commissions were reconstituted by the Governor in 1988 (Executive Order 01.01.1988.06). Each judicial vacancy filled pursuant to the Governor's appointing power must be

filled from a list of nominees submitted by one of these nominating commissions.

When a judicial vacancy occurs or is about to occur, the Administrative Office of the Courts notifies the appropriate commission and then solicits applications from interested persons through announcements in the press and by contacting interested bar associations. Applications received are distributed to the commission members.

After the filing deadline for a vacancy has passed, the commission meets to consider applications and relevant information, such as recommendations from bar associations or individual citizens. Each candidate is interviewed by the full commission or by commission panels. The commission then prepares a list of those candidates deemed legally and professionally most fully qualified for judicial office. This list is prepared by secret written ballot. No applicant may be added to the list unless that applicant has the affirmative vote of a majority of the commission members present at a voting session. The list is forwarded to the Governor, who must make an appointment from the commission list.

The Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission nominates candidates for the Court of Appeals and the Court of Special Appeals. Fourteen Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commissions recommend nominees for Circuit Courts and District Courts.

Each of the fifteen commissions consists of thirteen members. Six members are lawyers elected by other lawyers within designated geographical areas. Six are lay members appointed by the Governor. The chairperson, who may be either a lawyer or a lay person, also is appointed by the Governor. The terms of members extend to the date of qualification of the Governor elected at each quadrennial election, and until their successors are duly chosen. The Administrative Office of the Courts is the secretariat to all commissions.

APPELLATE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

Chairperson: James J. Cromwell

1st Appellate Circuit:

Jane W. Bailey; Peter Ayers Wimbrow III

2nd Appellate Circuit:

E. Scott Moore; Harry Ratrie

3rd Appellate Circuit:

David Gilbert Borenstein, M.D.; Albert D. Brault

4th Appellate Circuit:

Clarence L. Fossett, Jr.; Rev. Andrew Johnson

5th Appellate Circuit:

Leonard E. Moodispaw; Kenneth A. Pippin

6th Appellate Circuit:

Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.; Kenneth R. Taylor, Jr.